

Remains of imperial early Byzantine cathedral revealed near Jerusalem



An elaborately decorated early Byzantine church dedicated to an anonymous martyr was recently uncovered by archaeologists near Jerusalem.

Some of the finds from the nearly 1,500-year-old structure were displayed on Wednesday after three years of excavations. The findings will be exhibited at Jerusalem's Bible Lands Museum.

According to press reports, an inscription on a mosaic proclaims that the site was built in honor of a "glorious martyr." Other inscriptions commemorate the Roman Empire's expansion under the sixth-century ruler Justinian and one of his successors, Tiberius II Constantine.

The elaborate design of the Church, including a lattice marble chancel, a calcite flowstone baptismal and a floor mosaic depicting an eagle, the symbol of the Byzantine Empire, shows the site's notable funding and significance.

The excavation's director, Benjamin Storch, said the excavation showcases a phenomenon known as "imperial church building."